THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) India Meteorological Department (IMD), the nodal agency for operating and maintaining national seismological network, has plans to strengthen the seismological network to improve the detection of earthquakes of magnitude down to 3, on the Richter Scale occurring anywhere in the country by upgradation and setting up of more seismological observatories at selected locations in the country.

(b) and (c) According to seismic zoning map of India, prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards, the country has been divided into four seismic zones, *viz.*, Zone-V-II. Zone-V is considered to be the most seismically active, while zone-II is the least. Delhi falls in seismic zone-IV, which can experience earthquakes of intensity VIII on modified Mercally. In order to keep a watch on seismic activity in and around Delhi, a 16-element VSAT bases digital telemetry system has been commissioned which is being operated and maintained by IMD. Also, first level microzonation map at 1:50,000 scale has been prepared to help in better preparendness and formulating mitigation strategies.

Microzonation of buildings

†996. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when the microzonation (to divide in small zones) work of easily destructible buildings due to earthquake would be completed in the national capital;

(b) if already completed the details thereof; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be completed in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) First level seismic microzonation of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, at 1:50,000 scale, has been completed and further studies to prepare the microzonation map at larger scale, namely, 1:10,000 have been initiated. As per the first level seismic microzonation, NCT of Delhi has been divided into 9 units of likely uniform seismic hazard and ground response pattern.

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†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

(c) Microzonation for all the urban centres of the country is not necessary. The requirement depends upon the earthquake risk in a particular urban centre. At present it is not possible to say how much time it will take.However, Ministry of Home Affairs has recently constituted an Expert Group for formulation of national programme for seismic microzonation, seismic hazard, risk assessment and mitigation action plan.

Proposals of voluntary organisations

997. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organization who submitted their proposals under Science and Society Division-Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology during the last three years;

(b) the action taken on the above said proposals;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposals of voluntary organizations of Western Uttar Pradesh especially of Bulandshahar district are not being accepted; and

(d) the number of voluntary organizations of Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh who have submitted their proposals and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) During the last three years, 320 voluntary organizations submitted their proposals to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and 390 voluntary organizations submitted their proposals to the Science and Society Division, Department of Science and Technology (DST).

(b) Each proposal is carefully evaluated through a committee of experts and peer group review. Out of the total 320 proposals received by DBT, 52 were found suitable for funding and 314 were funded by DST out of 780 proposals received. Rest of the proposals were not found suitable for funding.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) During the last three years, only one voluntary organization from Bulandshahar district (U.P.) submitted three project proposals. One of them has been sanctioned by the Science and Society Division of DST.